

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 03463 011728Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W

-----124674 011734Z /64

R 011430Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3401

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 3463

LONDON FOR SEITZ

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, GH

SUBJ: GHANA APPOINTS CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

REF: ACCRA 3427 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ON APRIL 30 GHANA APPOINTED A 23-MEMBER COMMISSION TO DRAFT A CONSTITUTION BY END OF OCTOBER 1978. IN THEORY AT LEAST.

MEMBERS REPRESENT BOTH OPPOSITION AND OTHER INTEREST GROUPS IN GHANAIAN SOCIETY; INCLUDED IN LIST OF MEMBERS ARE ACADEMICS, LAWYERS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, DOCTORS, CHIEFS, WOMEN, TRADE UNION LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ARMED FORCES AND POLICE. CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION IS DR. THOMAS ABOAGYE MENSAH, CURRENTLY HEAD OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO), IN LONDON. HE APPEARS WELL-QUALIFIED FOR POST. END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 03463 011728Z

2. LOCAL PRESS ON MAY 1 GIVES FOLLOWING LIST OF MEMBERS OF NEW CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION:

CHAIRMAN -- DR. T.A. MEMSAH, FORMER LECTURER AND ACTING DEAN OF FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON; CURRENTLY LEGAL OFFICER WITH IMCO.

MEMBERS --

PROF. S.O. GYANDOH, JR., LECTURER IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, LEGON.  
PROF. E.V.T. ENGMANN, DEAN OF FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST; SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION.  
ANTHONY K. ACHEAMPONG, CATHOLIC REPRESENTATIVE.  
DR. I. ADJEI-MENSAH, SUNYANI LAWYER.  
AHMED E. FUTA, REPRESENTATIVE OF MUSLIM COUNCIL.  
REV. C.A. ANSAH, REPRESENTATIVE OF CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.  
PROF. C.O. QUARCOOPOME, PRESIDENT OF GHANA MZYICAL ASSOCIATION.  
COL. PETER AGBEKO, DIRECTOR, LEGAL DIRECTORATE, GHANA ARMED FORCES.  
MUMUNI BAWUMIA, LAWYER.  
DR. T. MODIBO OCCRAN, CHIEF COUNSEL, CAPITAL INVESTMENTS BOARD.  
DR. G.T. ANIM, DIRECTOR, INFORMATION SERVICES DEPT.  
NANA KWANTWI BARIMAH II, ADANSIHENE (A LOCAL CHIEF).  
JANE COLE, SECRETARY, NATIONAL COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT.  
BOB ANAOU, ACCRA LAWYER.  
MR. DUA-SEKYI, ACCRA LAWYER.  
ALEX KWAME AIDOO, ACCRA LAWYER.  
DR. OPOKU AMANFO, ACCRA LAWYER.  
DR. A.B. ADDA, NAVRO-PIO (AN UPPER REGION CHIEF)  
SETPINOEL DEBIIDANKWAH, HEADMASTER, FIASEMAN SECONDARY SCHOOL.  
MONICA ATINKA, EDUCATIONIST.  
B.S.K. KWAKYE, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, ACCRA.  
A REPRESENTATIVE (YET UNNAMED) OF TRADES UNION CONGRESS.  
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PAGE 03 ACCRA 03463 011728Z

3. FOR LONDON: OUR BIO COVERAGE ON COMMISSION CHAIRMAN MENSAH ENDS INH73. HE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN HEAD OF IMCO'S LEGAL DIVISION IN LONDON FROM 1968 TO DATE. REQUEST ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ON HIM, INCLUDING POLITICAL VIEWS, IF KNOWN.

4. COMMENT: AS TED REFTTEL, HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG INVITED A NUMBER OF OPPOSITION GROUPS TO SERVE ON COMMISSION, BUT THEY DECLINED. AT THIS POINT, WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS LISTED ABOVE HAVE ACTUALLY AGREED TO SERVE OR OQAT THEY DO IN FACT REPRESENT ORGANIZATION OF WHICH THEY ARE PART. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT, RUNNING OUT OF TIME (UNDER GOG TIMETABLE FOR RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE, COMMISSION HAD TO BE FORMED BY END OF APRIL), ACHEAMPONG MAY HAVE PULLED AT LEAST SOME NAMES OUT OF A HAT. SEPTTEL REPORTS OUR VIEWS ON MEMBERS OF COMMISSION AND TYPE OF CONSTITUTION THEY ARE LIKELY TO PRODUCE. SMITH

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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